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Non-SELA News

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SELA NEWS:

2010 Biennial Conference

The Southeastern Library Association's 2010 Biennial Conference comes to Little Rock September 25-28 ... a joint celebration with the Arkansas Library Association at the Little Rock Convention Center and the Peabody Hotel, with:

National speakers Camila Alire, Sally Gardner Reed, and Leslie Burger, programs and exhibits galore, awards, auction baskets, get-togethers, tours, and much more!

Offering a biennial regional conference, continuing education, mentoring, an opportunity to publish, and more... SELA complements our state library association... extending our professional community throughout the 12 Southeastern States for \$25-\$65 in annual dues, a bargain when compared with other associations.

See you in Little Rock, September 25-28, as we network with Librarians in our region.

SELA Mentoring Program

The SELA Membership and Mentoring Committee is looking for individuals who are interested in participating in the SELA Mentoring Program

(<http://selaonline.org/membership/mentoring.htm>) as a mentor or mentee.

The SELA Mentoring Program was developed to assist librarians, library paraprofessionals and library science students with their library careers.

If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee for the SELA Mentoring Program, please contact Hal Mendelsohn, hmendels@mail.ucf.edu, Chair of the SELA Membership and Mentoring Committee.

NON-SELA NEWS:

**Content From Small-market
Newspapers Accessible Through
LexisNexis**

Subscribers to some of the country's largest information providers such as LexisNexis are now able to access unique content from small town and rural America within the "Discover America's Story" title. The content is rich with articles relevant to geographic locations often under-reported or overlooked by mainstream news coverage such as natural resources, agriculture, land use, water rights and farming. Small-town news, op-ed, business, arts and government are covered along with legal notices and obituaries. Discover America's Story articles provide insight into what is happening in-town and in-county while providing a local point of view on larger issues such as state, regional and national politics and world affairs. The collection of articles, which is produced by [SmallTownPapers](#) and includes more than 250 titles from across the US, is continuously updated. The articles are organized within "Regional Newspapers" in many products where users can select or search for "Discover America's Story." Contact SmallTownPapers for more information – info@smalltownpapers.com or call 206-938-9073.

ASERL Offers Discussion Draft Proposal for Coordinated Management of Federal Documents Collections in Southeast

During its recent 2010 Spring Membership Meeting, the members of the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) unanimously approved a draft proposal for coordinating the management of Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) collections in the Southeast Region. The draft proposal and an Executive Summary are available via the ASERL website, www.aserl.org.

"This is a time of significant change for libraries that participate in the FDLP," noted Judy Russell, Dean of Libraries at the University of Florida and Chair of the ASERL Task Force that drafted the proposal.

"In response to this environment, it's vital that libraries be proactive about how to effectively and efficiently manage these important information resources to ensure their public availability for the future."

The proposal was drafted as a means of starting a dialogue between library deans and directors, documents librarians and others about how to effectively manage the extant FDLP collections as a regional asset. The document proposes options for standardizing and simplifying the FDLP collection management processes within the region.

Highlights of the proposal:

- A brief overview of the law governing aspects of the FDLP program, specifically focusing on requirements for managing FDLP collections;
- A recommendation to expand ASERL's "center of excellence" model to build two comprehensive-as-possible, cataloged FDLP print collections held collaboratively across FDLP libraries in the Southeast; and
- New, standardized processes for managing the disposition of FDLP documents within the Region to reduce workload, balanced against a more robust acquisitions process that emphasizes local collection development needs.

The proposal does not imply that there will be only two Regional Depository Libraries in the Southeast Region.

Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Annual Conference

The Popular Culture Association and the American Culture Association annual conference will be held April 20 - April 23, 2011 in the Marriott Riverwalk and

Rivercenter Hotels, San Antonio, Texas. Scholars from numerous disciplines will meet to share their Popular Culture research and interests.

The Libraries, Archives, Museums, and Popular Culture area is soliciting papers dealing with any aspect of Popular Culture as it pertains to libraries, archives, museums, or research. This year we would particularly like to hear reports about Popular Culture in library education. Other possibilities include descriptions of research collections or exhibits, studies of popular images of libraries or librarians, analyses of social networking or web resources such as *Wikipedia* and *YouTube*, or reports on developments in technical services for collecting popular culture materials.

Papers from graduate students are welcome.

Prospective presenters should send a one-page abstract (electronic preferred) with *full contact information* by **December 15**, 2010, to:

Allen Ellis
Professor of Library Services
W. Frank Steely Library
Northern Kentucky University
Highland Heights, KY 41099-6101
USA
859-572-5527
FAX: 859-572-5390
E-Mail: ellisa@nku.edu

STATE NEWS

GEORGIA

The Value of “Volunteerism”

Story by Erika Ruthman
Cobb County Public Library System

“I get to make a difference,” said Nancy Clark, an East Cobb resident and a Cobb County Public Library System (CCPLS) volunteer.

Clark is one of about 700 library volunteers. Together, the volunteers donated more than nine thousand hours in 2009 to the library, a jump from the more than four thousand hours donated in 2008. Their reasons for volunteering are many and are as different as the individuals.

Their value, according to Alexandra Beswick, Cobb County Public Library System’s Central Library manager, is immeasurable.

“They are part of our family and they help us greatly,” Beswick said.

Volunteers are needed because library staff across Cobb County watched the use of library services spike.

“In 2009 usage at the library was up on all fronts,” Associate Director of Central and Outreach Services Jonathan McKeown said, “circulation, patron count, questions asked, and internet use all increased noticeably.”

McKeown’s observation is most noticeable in the numbers; in 2008, CCPLS staff assisted approximately two million, four hundred thirty-five thousand patrons. In 2009 that number shot up to more than two million, six hundred forty-two thousand according to a 2010 Cobb County Public Library System Monthly-Usage Report. Fortunately, volunteer participation also increased Beswick said, providing reinforcements for community needs.

Volunteers fill duties that sustain the daily library-rhythm such as shelf-reading, book searches, event support, and repairing books just to name a few jobs. What’s more important is that volunteers are ambassadors for the library too, Beswick said.

“[Their work] puts our face out in the community,” she said. “People who volunteer share that [experience] with their friends. They are good proponents for the library.”